

Life, AD&D and Beneficiary Assist

The Group Insurance Commission has selected The Hartford as its new life insurance carrier effective July 1, 2006. Life insurance helps provide for your family's economic well-being in the event of your death. This benefit is paid to your designated beneficiary(ies). **Life (Basic and Optional) and Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefits will be enhanced to cover acts of war and terror effective July 1, 2006.**

Retired Municipal Teachers (RMTs) are eligible for basic life insurance only, in an amount determined by the city or town from which they retire. *See page 9 for details.*



Survivors, Elderly Governmental Retirees (EGRs), and COBRA enrollees are not eligible for basic or optional life insurance.

Basic Life Insurance (Retired State Employees)

The Commonwealth requires \$5,000 of Basic Life Insurance for most retirees who have health coverage through the GIC.

Optional Life Insurance After Retirement (Retired State Employees Only)

Optional Life Insurance rates will decrease effective July 1, 2006. *See page 8 for details.*

At retirement, you should review the amount of your Optional Life Insurance coverage and its cost to determine whether it makes economic sense for you to maintain it. Optional Life Insurance rates significantly increase when you retire and continue to increase based on your age. If you have paid off your home and student loans, your tax advisor might recommend other programs that might be more beneficial. You cannot increase your amount of life insurance after you retire. However, if you decrease coverage and then later want to increase up to the amount you carried at the time of retirement, you may do so with proof of good health acceptable to The Hartford.

Optional Life Insurance Non-Smoker Benefit (Retired State Employees Only)

During annual enrollment, retired state employees who have been tobacco-free (have not smoked cigarettes, cigars or pipes nor used snuff or chewing tobacco) for at least the past 12 months are eligible for reduced Optional Life Insurance rates effective July 1, 2006. Request an enrollment form by writing to the GIC. You will be required to periodically re-certify your non-smoking status in order to qualify for the lower rates.

Life Insurance Questions?

Contact the GIC

1.617.727.2310 ext. 1 • www.mass.gov/gic

Accelerated Life Benefit (Retired State Employees and RMTs)

This benefit provision allows you to elect an advance payment of up to 75% of your insurance death benefits if you have been diagnosed with a terminal illness. Insured enrollees are eligible for this benefit if the attending physician provides satisfactory evidence that you have a life expectancy of 12 months or less. You must continue to pay the required monthly premium. The remaining balance is paid to your beneficiary at death.

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits

(Retired State Employees and RMTs)

In the event you are injured or die as a result of an accident while insured for life insurance, there are benefits for the following losses:

- Life
- Hands, Feet, Eyes
- Speech and/or Hearing
- Thumb and Index Finger of the Same Hand
- Quadriplegia
- Paraplegia
- Hemiplegia
- Coma
- Brain Damage
- Air Bag and Seat Belt benefits for loss of life in a car accident



Retired Municipal Teachers with Basic Life Insurance of \$1,000 do not have Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefits.

Beneficiary Assist Benefit

The LifeBalance® program will be replaced by The Hartford's Beneficiary Assist program effective July 1, 2006. This program helps GIC enrollees cope with the emotional, financial and legal issues that can arise after the loss of a family member. The program provides GIC enrollees with unlimited telephone access and up to five face-to-face sessions with grief, legal, and financial counselors after the death of a family member.

Beneficiary Assist Questions?

Contact The Hartford: 1.800.411.7239

www.thehartfordatwork.com

Retiree Dental, Vision & Buy-Out Option

GIC Retiree Dental Plan

Altus Dental administers the GIC Retiree Dental Plan. The plan offers a fixed reimbursement for dental services, such as examinations, cleanings, fillings, crowns and dentures. As a member of this plan, you may go to the dentist of your choice. However, you will save money by visiting a participating provider. Over 2,900 Massachusetts dentists participate in the plan. *(If you live outside of this area and are a member of the plan, there is a nationwide network of over 41,000 providers that offers discounted rates.)* When you visit a participating provider, your out-of-pocket expenses will generally be lower and Altus will pay the provider directly. If you go to a non-participating dentist, Altus will reimburse you according to the scheduled allowance.

This is an entirely voluntary plan (*retiree-pay-all*) that provides GIC members with coverage at discounted group insurance rates through convenient pension deductions.

There is no increase in the monthly premium for Fiscal Year 2007. See page 8 for rate details.

Questions?
Contact Altus Dental
1.800.722.1148
www.altusdental.com

The following are examples of the reimbursements you would receive for dental procedures:

Maximum Annual Benefit of \$850 per Member	
Procedure Description	Allowance
Adult Cleaning	\$75
Complete X-Ray Series	\$94
Three-surface Silver Filling	\$78
Porcelain Crown (coverage after 6 months of participation)	\$385
Complete Upper Denture (coverage after 6 months of participation)	\$374

Enrollment

All GIC retirees, Retired Municipal Teachers (RMTs), Elderly Governmental Retirees (EGRs), and survivors may join during annual enrollment, when COBRA dental coverage ends, or at retirement. However, if you drop coverage after joining, you can never re-enroll in the plan. Participants are eligible for Type III Dental Services (*major restorative treatment like crowns or dentures*) after the initial six months of participation.

GIC Retiree Vision Discount Plan

The GIC has again contracted with Davis Vision to administer the Retiree Vision Discount Plan effective July 1, 2006. This plan offers considerable savings on a number of vision services and products. The plan is available at any of the over 11,300 participating Davis Vision providers throughout the United States. However, you must call Davis Vision before visiting the office in order to participate. The plan provides significant discounts on eye examinations, frames, spectacle lenses and contact lenses. In addition, all eyeglasses purchased through the Retiree Vision Plan are covered by a two-year unconditional warranty against breakage at no additional cost.

Retiree Vision Questions?

Contact Davis Vision

1.800.783.3594

www.davisvision.com (control code: 7621)

Health Insurance Buy-Out Option

If you were insured with the GIC on January 1, 2006 or before and continue your coverage through June 30, 2006, you may buy out your health plan coverage during annual enrollment. You must have other non-state health insurance coverage that is comparable to the health insurance you now receive through the Group Insurance Commission.

Under the buy-out plan, eligible enrollees receive 25% of the full cost monthly premium in lieu of health insurance benefits for one 12-month period. The amount of payment depends on your health plan and coverage.

Buy-Out Questions?

Contact the GIC

617.727.2310 ext. 1

www.mass.gov/gic

For example:

State Retiree with
Commonwealth Indemnity Plan
Medicare Extension (OME) individual coverage

Full cost premium on July 1, 2006: \$336.41

Monthly 12-month benefit = 25% of this premium.

Retiree receives 12 monthly checks of \$84.10
(before federal and state tax deduction)